

In the Claims

1 (previously presented). A method for treating or inhibiting intimal hyperplasia of a blood vessel of a person or animal, where the endothelium of said blood vessel is intact, wherein said method comprises periadventitial administration to a site where intimal hyperplasia is present or may occur in said blood vessel of said person or animal of an amount of an agent that is effective to treat or inhibit intimal hyperplasia of said blood vessel, wherein said agent comprises a nucleic acid that encodes an agonist of a Flt-1 or a Flk-1/KDR receptor to which vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) binds, wherein said agonist is a human VEGF protein, and expressing said agonist encoded by said nucleic acid in the cells of said blood vessel, whereby intimal hyperplasia of said blood vessel is inhibited or reduced.

2 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein said blood vessel is an artery.

3 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, for the treatment or prevention of stenosis induced by a surgical procedure or associated with pulmonary artery hypertension.

4 (previously presented). The method according to claim 3, wherein said surgical procedure is angioplasty, coronary bypass surgery, surgical anastomosis or endarterectomy.

5 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, for the treatment or prevention of stenosis of the blood vessel.

6 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, for the treatment or prevention of restenosis of the blood vessel.

7 (canceled).

8 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein said VEGF protein has the sequence of SEQ. ID No. 2, SEQ. ID No. 4, SEQ. ID No. 6 or SEQ. ID No. 8, or a biologically-active fragment thereof.

9 (previously presented). The method according to claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is in association with a viral or non-viral vector.

10-38 (canceled).

39 (previously presented). A method for the delivery of a human vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) protein to a cell of a blood vessel whose endothelium is intact, comprising periadventitial administration of a nucleic acid encoding said human VEGF protein to a site on said blood vessel where intimal hyperplasia is present or may occur, and wherein said nucleic acid is expressed in a cell of the adventitia of said blood vessel.

40 (previously presented). The method according to claim 39, wherein said blood vessel is an artery.

41 (previously presented). The method according to claim 39, wherein said VEGF protein has the sequence of SEQ. ID No. 2, SEQ. ID No. 4, SEQ. ID No. 6 or SEQ. ID No. 8, or a biologically-active fragment thereof.

42 (previously presented). The method according to claim 39, wherein said nucleic acid is in association with a viral or non-viral vector.

43 (new). The method according to claim 1, wherein said animal is a rabbit.